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BOLDLY MOVING TOWARDS the Future We Want

If you have been following the news, you know it's exciting times and Hickman Mills C-1 Schools is implementing continuous improvement "Towards the Future We Want". In February, the HMC-1 leadership team presented a bold idea for Ingels Elementary School – an extended school year. The decision to make such a bold move wasn't easy. Since coming to HMC-1, our leadership team has been reviewing our student data, looking at changes, up or down, and searching for ways to help move our students forward.



When I was hired to lead the district, the Board of Directors charged me to be bold and do what is needed to effect change. We need to be bold to make a change now. Our plan has three essential parts that affect the elementary, middle, and high schools, and are part of the strategies to help improve the academic performance across the district in alignment with our Comprehensive Strategic Improvement Plan (CSIP). The Ingels extended school year is the latest strategic piece in our plan.

Year-round school as a kid doesn't sound like a lot of fun. However, data has shown our students at Ingels need the most help ensuring they gain and retain the lessons they learn during the school year. An extended calendar allows our amazing staff of teachers to build relationships that will last for the full year. They become invested in deeper ways that will translate to success in the classroom. Plus, research has proven time and again that quality classroom instruction equals student success.

Before the new Ingels initiative, HMC-1 rolled out a plan to make bold changes in our middle school. By opening up the 6th Grade Center, our students have the opportunity to start the transition from elementary to middle school in a way that is purposeful and effective. We are continuing to develop the middle school experience initiative, working with school leadership to launch an innovative middle experience in Fall 2023.

New this year is our Evening Academy, a program designed to help previous high schoolers who have not completed the requirements to either earn their high school diploma or GED. Offered by our Burke Alternative Academy team, these students work with teachers in the evening to work on Hi-SAT programming to complete the requirements. In addition, our Real-World Learning team continues to work with partners to offer additional programs that give our students market-value credentials (e.g. construction, welding, technology, etc.) and skills after graduation.

We are investing in our teachers and staff. We are increasing our program offerings. We are striving to find ways to make sure every student is successful. This is our time to be bold as we work together to build the future we want; we invite you to continue with us on this journey.

Yaw Obeng, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools

On the cover:

Truman Elementary fourth grade music students discussed how sound is produced and travels. Using numerous instruments, the students analyzed each to determine how it produced sound. The students were experimenting with Thunder Tubes, instruments that sound like thunder when shaken.



In this issue:

- | | | | | | |
|----------|---|----------|--|-----------|---|
| 3 | High school students find success in Real-World Learning | 8 | From the President: Moving Towards the Future We Want | 9 | Engineering their Way to Success: Ruskin Robotics |
| 6 | Ready! Set! Action! Students chosen to perform on large stage | 8 | Hurdling His Way to College: Senior Daniel Williams, Jr. | 10 | Let's Go Eagles! Showcasing Ruskin Winter Sports |

**BENEFITING
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13TH ANNUAL
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SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023

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Ready to SUCCEED IN THE REAL WORLD



HIGH SCHOOLERS ARE FINDING SUCCESS IN REAL-WORLD LEARNING

For many high school students, life in the real world is a little scary. Fear of what comes next can make many young adults nervous about life after graduation. In an effort to help prepare students for success after graduation, whether students travel the college or career route, Hickman Mills C-1 Schools launched a real-world learning initiative 11 years ago.

Real-world learning combines traditional classroom-based curriculum with hands-on experience-based skills. It's a practical way for students to explore their interests and connect to careers by participating in real-world experiences as they build up market value assets. Students who graduate with industry-valued experiences are more likely to thrive on their journey to professional success.

"We really focus on applicable skills or certifications that students can have the minute they leave our doors," HMC-1's Real

World Learning Facilitator Bethany Kelly said. "If our students choose not to go to college, they are able to go right into the career field."

Many of the real-world learning programs are stackable. For example, someone who wants to go to school for nursing can earn their certified nursing assistant, or CNA, a requirement to be accepted into nursing school.

Students also learn important professional soft skills such as public speaking, networking, teamwork, problem solving, decision-making, and more. Ms. Kelly points out that real world learning has to be implemented in every aspect of their lives.

"These students are also learning great soft skills," Ms. Kelly said. "All of these pro-

grams set students in the real world so they get exposed to all of the skills you don't really learn in school. But since they are still high school students, they have mentors to help them navigate to become successful young adults."

The district started with the health start academy offering certified nursing assistant (CNA) certification. Now, HMC-1 offers certifications for certified medical assistant, pharmacy tech, sterile services, and phlebotomy. Leadership is working to offer medical billing and coding in the future. Over all of the pathways, HMC-1 offers a variety of programs across a multitude of industries, including health care, skilled trades, engineering, business and law, the arts, and more.

"As we build these programs, there's something new and exciting every year," Ms. Kelly said. "Next year, we have a new Emergency Responders program with our partners at Grandview and Center. We will continue to strive to find ways to ensure every student is prepared to be successful when they walk out our doors."

Welding: **A STRONG BOND** FOR A STRONG FUTURE

For Jane't Wright, a senior at Ruskin High School, the traditional school setting was okay, but she wanted more. When the new skills trade program started this year with the opportunity to learn welding at T&L Welding Academy, she jumped at the chance.

"I have always been interested in construction," Jane't said. "I wanted to find a program that would be a great opportunity to get work experience that would also give me a feel for what I might enjoy."

Building out the trade skills program is just another piece in the growing Real World Learning program offered at Ruskin. More than the real-world application, the hands-on experience available as part of the program has been key for Jane't.

"It's different because I feel like you're learning more when you are hands-on versus the sit and listen form of traditional school," Jane't said.

The Fast Track Welding Program at T&L was designed for students looking to enter the welding field as an entry-level welder. Students who join the program learn the processes and safety of using various welding gases and rods and have to perform each form of welding to move on to the next section.

"I've learned plasma cutting, stick welding, and some other beginning welding skills," Jane't said. "I have really enjoyed learning about plasma cutting, that's my favorite so far."

The ultimate goal is for the students to



receive their high school diploma, earn their trade certificate, and then be placed in an internship to set up those students for success after graduation.

"I'm excited about the opportunity for a career that is available for me after graduation," Jane't said. "My goal is to get an internship with Honeywell and have the financial stability to help my family."

Manufacturing: **FROM LEGOS TO** ENGINEERING & BEYOND

When Freshman Joshua Hynes registered for the Manufacturing class, his goal was to prepare himself for his ultimate goal – to become a mechanic. But once he entered Todd Barney's class, it didn't take long for him to realize he was going to love the class.

When asked what he loved about the class, his answer was simple: "The Legos," Joshua said. "When you first start in the class, you build with Legos and love building different types of things with Legos."

Once students get past the basics of building with Legos, they start building more intricate modules such as wiring circuits and building full circuit blocks. Plus, students are learning coding to make motors spin, lights turn on, etc.

"The manufacturing side is helping me prepare for working on the electrical and wiring portion of the engine," Joshua explained. "This class is helping me build those skills. Plus, the coding portion is pretty cool, too."

Joshua plans to move on through the manufacturing pathway with a metals class on the schedule for next year. After that, students will take a Computer Integrated Machinery (CIM) class where they learn how to program machines that cut out metal.



The pinnacle of the manufacturing class is an internship with organizations like Honeywell, where they can put their skills to use.

"The goal is for students who go all the way through the program to graduate with at least one, if not multiple, manufacturing certificates," Manufacturing Teacher Todd Barney said.

For Joshua, the manufacturing pathway is right where he belongs. "Mr. Barnes is great, making the lessons really easy to understand," Joshua said. "My goal is to become a mechanic and this class is helping me build those skills."

Health Care: BRINGING HER HEART TO NURSING

For Maleah West, she has known since middle school that she wants to go into the health care field. Now a senior at Ruskin High School, she is taking a full course load including Biomedical Innovations, an advanced class, along with the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program.

“My goal overall is to become a nurse practitioner,” Maleah said. “I really like learning and the CNA program has been a good experience. It’s taught me a lot about the different levels of care for each patient. It’s important for me to have empathy and be compassionate to offer an exceptional level of care.”

While CNAs help patients with activities of daily living and other health care needs, for Maleah, she is using this opportunity to learn more about the health care world and gain additional real-world application and knowledge. Plus, earning her CNA certification completes a key requirement towards being accepted into nursing school and eventually becoming a nurse practitioner.

“I have really enjoyed all of the different field trips and learning experiences,”

Maleah said. “Having the opportunity to be first hand in the health care field has solidified my decision to go into the nursing field.”

This fall, Maleah plans to attend the University of Missouri to study nursing.



THE MEN OF HICKMAN MILLS: *The Future We Want* CONFERENCE



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RUSKIN HIGH SCHOOL

Registration for this conference is FREE.
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Capstone:

WORKING TOGETHER TO FIND REAL-WORLD SOLUTIONS

For real-world learning, there's nothing like hands-on experiences. The Capstone Program at Ruskin High is the epitome of hands-on learning. In this class, students from two different pathways are paired together to learn from one another and work together to solve a problem or issue.

"We had to learn about each other's fields," Ruskin Senior Elliana Wandick said. "For our team, I had to learn more about the medical side of our projects and Adriana had to learn more about engineering."

"Working together has helped us critically think, think outside the box, and overcome problems that don't normally get addressed within a traditional classroom," Ruskin Senior Adriana Morfin said.

This program isn't just about pairing two different kids together, it's about learning those soft skills necessary to be successful in life outside of school such as team

building skills, all in a hands-on type of class.

"I always liked the idea that I could make something, it can help others, and people can appreciate my work," Elliana said. "I have learned how important the steps are; if you miss one step, it can change the outcome of the final project."

The two have worked on a series of different projects together this school year, culminating to their current, large-scale project. They are developing a muzzle for dogs that is less aggressive and more humane.

"It's important for dogs to feel safe in a new environment," Adriana said. "While they're not human, they still have feelings and this should help them feel like they are in a safer environment."

Together, they have been working through the plan from concept, to development,

and the next step is to work with Wayside Waifs to test the new muzzle on some of their furry friends.

"We want to have them try our prototype and have their input to better adapt it for use in their facility."

For Elliana, she has always wanted to develop projects and build things. She plans to attend the University of Kansas in the fall to study civil engineering. For Adriana, she has always wanted to help people. She plans to attend the University of Missouri to study nursing. As they enjoy the last months of their high school career, they're shooting for some new personal bests.

Last year, Elliana went to state in Track & Field, finishing in the top eight (and on the podium) for shot put. This year, her goal is to get higher. For Adriana, she shares key advice to her success: don't procrastinate. She has secured her future at MU with a competitive scholarship (see page 8 to read more). The Capstone program has helped prepare both girls for life after high school and leave with a little parting advice:

"Don't get in your own way," Elliana said. "You can do great things."



Celebrating the Arts



Ruskin Student Selected for Starlight Production

Zoie Harrington, a sophomore at Ruskin High School and the theatre department officer, recently auditioned for *Legally Blonde! The Musical*, a performance at Kansas City's Starlight Theatre. Zoie auditioned with 75 other area high school students and was selected as one of 19 students to perform in the teen ensemble of *Legally Blonde!*

Zoie will be performing on stage alongside professional actors from Kansas City, New York City, and other major cities. *Legally Blonde!* is scheduled to run this summer, July 7 – 13, at Starlight Theatre. Congratulations Zoie!

Ruskin Alumna Named Kennedy Center Regional Finalist

Ruskin High School alumna and current Kansas State student Nikela Reed was named as a Regional Finalist for the Region 5 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF). Miss Reed's ten-minute play, "Occidimus," is now one of 16 ten-minute plays, from across the seven KCACTF regions in the United States, to be named a semi-finalist for the National Festival. The top play will be selected for a reading at the Kennedy Center later this spring.

To earn this honor, Miss Reed's play had to outperform over 80 productions from other college programs including programs in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Congratulations Miss Reed on your accomplishments!





4TH ANNUAL

GOLF TOURNAMENT

JUNE 2, 2023
1:00 PM SHOTGUN START

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3161 SW M 291 HWY, LEE'S SUMMIT, MO

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CSD CREDIT UNION

From the President

As a school board, we know that the one constant in education is change, and not all change is good. For years, we have watched Hickman Mills C-1 School District slide from one of the premier institutions in Kansas City to one fighting for its academic survival. As the Board of Directors president, I'm proud to say we have now changed that narrative. HMC-1 has made many tough decisions with our families in mind and now have a lot to celebrate. These changes include

increasing salaries, improving facilities, along with recruiting and retaining top administrators, teachers, and staff members to support our students. Those accomplishments are just the beginning of our journey to the future! Our School Board pledges to provide continued resources, purposeful leadership, and sound governance as we all work together to build the future we want for this historic community. Join us as we work together to build the future we want.



CAROL GRAVES, President
Board of Directors

Hurdling His Way to College

For Ruskin High School senior Daniel William, Jr., he has been striving for a state title since his freshman year. He's been close both his sophomore and junior years, but he is now looking forward to his senior year for his place on the podium.

Daniel runs hurdles. During his sophomore year, Daniel took the 400 M Hurdles District and Sectional Championships, and then went on and placed eighth at state competition. His junior year, he earned the District Championship in the 300 M Hurdles and was an All-State Honorable Mention. He qualified to compete at the state level in the 4 x 200 Relay and 4 x 400 Relays.

His success has college coaches taking notice. This February,



ruary, Daniel made the decision to accept an offer to join the William Jewell College Track & Field Team.

"I chose William Jewell because it checked a lot of boxes for me," Daniel said. "They have a really good business school, the location was perfect, plus the cost."

But it's not just athletic ability that coaches are noticing. Daniel is currently taking a rigorous schedule that includes dual credit college algebra and attending Summit Technology Academy where he is studying software development. Once in college, he plans to study business management, and he wants to learn more about social media management, video, and other graphics – all things he plans to put to use as a business major.

"William Jewell has a prestigious business program, I'm excited to join their school," Daniel said.

One of Daniel's favorite memories of high school is the state trip overnight where he, along with his teammates, enjoyed a nice dinner out together, spending time in the hotel, and just bonding together before the big competition. He hopes to have the opportunity to do that again this season.

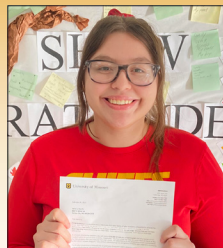
"I am excited about this year's season; my goal is to stand on the podium at state."

Worthy Competition for a MU Scholarship

Ruskin High School Senior, Adriana Morfin, has earned the George C Brooks Scholarship from the University of Missouri. This award is a competitive scholarship at MU for undergraduate students from underrepresented ethnic groups seeking admission on the Columbia campus. After writing an essay and going through an extensive interview process, Adriana was selected to be a Brooks Scholarship recipient. The scholarship is \$8,000 per academic year, and totals \$32,000 over the course of four years.

Currently in the Health Care Pathways Program, Adriana plans to study nursing at MU.

"I have always wanted to help people," Adriana said. "Dream big. Just because you're in a place that people may not like doesn't mean you are any less worthy of what you can have."



ENGINEERING THEIR WAY TO SUCCESS: RUSKIN ROBOTICS

When you think about robotics, often the image of nerdy kids who never play sports can come to mind. But for Ruskin Senior Reyna Salvador, she definitely doesn't fit the typical image of a robotics captain.

A four-year member of the robotics team, Reyna is the head builder and captain for this year's team. She was originally drawn to robotics by her older brother, who was also on the team and was enjoying his experience.

"He had a great time in robotics and that sounded really interesting," Reyna explained. "Robotics is the only thing that I

have had a passion for in high school and that has excited me as a kid."

Robotics is more than just building a robot to fight in the ring or complete missions, it's a team and teaches all of the important lessons of being on a team. At Ruskin, it's also a family.

"When I first joined the team, I felt welcomed," Reyna said. "It's more than just building a robot, it's helping each other, failing and winning together. Plus, it's really fun to watch robots clash into each other."

The biggest lesson for robotics? Failure. "You're going to fail," Reyna explained. "You fail so hard every year, but you have to take that failure and then figure out what did you learn and

what can you build from it? You learn resilience and how to keep pushing forward."

For Reyna, serving on the robotics team has other benefits. It's helping with her engineering pathway. "Those classes are not really hands-on lessons, but sit and listen," Reyna said. "But the robotics team allows you to take what you learned from engineering and gives you first-hand experience."

There's a sense of accomplishment when the robot is done and in competition. "I like to be the person who builds the robot and then be able to say, 'I built that'," Reyna said.

For underclassmen, her words of wisdom are simple – just enjoy high school and get involved. "There are so many things to be a part of within the school," Reyna said, "you just have to take a chance and join."



SAVE THE DATE!

2023-2024 ONLINE REGISTRATION

HMC-1 will open the
window for all families
(new and returning)
July 10 – August 4, 2023.

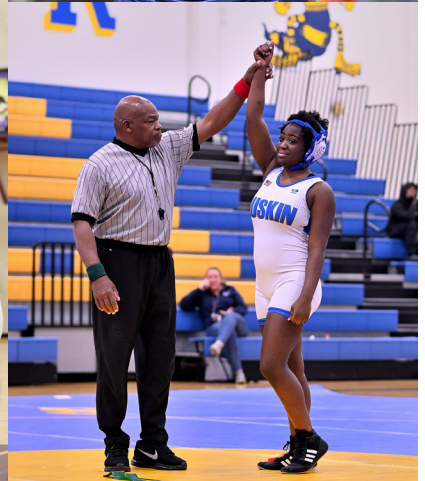
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LET'S GO EAGLES! SHOWCASING RUSKIN WINTER SPORTS



Photos courtesy
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- {Paraprofessionals start at \$16.50 an hour
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